

IN JAIL FOR DEBT

AT ONE TIME THERE WERE MANY SUCH IN AMERICA.

Seventy-Five Thousand Unfortunates Annually Deprived of Liberty as Late as the Year 1829—Mostly Owed Small Sums.

In 1829 it was estimated that 75,000 persons were annually imprisoned for debt in the United States, and at that date the practice had been abolished in at least two states, namely, Ohio and Kentucky. In 1830 the estimated number of individuals imprisoned on account of debt was: In Massachusetts, 3,000; in New York, 19,000; in Pennsylvania, 7,000; in Maryland, 5,000, or a total of 22,000 in four states.

The average of the debts for which persons were deprived of their liberty was small—under \$50. In the jail at Dedham, Norfolk county, Mass., out of a total of 52 debtors confined within its walls only nine owed more than \$50 and 16 owed ten dollars or less.

A local society for the relief of debtors confined for small debts procured the release of 15 persons whose debts added together amounted to only \$132, an average of less than nine dollars.

In a jail located at Hudson, N. Y., in the course of the year ended September 27, 1830, a total of 163 persons were committed for debts; of this number 49 were held for "rum debts." In Philadelphia 49 cases were recorded in which the sum total of the debts was only \$23.49—an average of less than 50 cents each.

"In one of these cases," quotes the Yale Review, "a man was imprisoned 36 days for a debt of two cents. We observe in an English paper a notice of a widow who is confined in jail in Providence for the unpardonable sin of owing 68 cents."

James Bell, keeper of the debtors' jail in New York, in a document submitted to the state senate stated that in 1816 729 persons were confined to the jail under his control for debts under \$25 each. Nearly all of these would, he asserted, have starved except for the bounty of the Humane Society. Bell himself was compelled to beg for fuel to keep them from freezing.

He specifically mentions the cases of Miss Lyman, imprisoned for three years for a debt of less than \$50, and of George Riley, imprisoned for six years, also for a debt of less than \$50. Both of the men were supported while imprisoned by charity. In other states, as Massachusetts and Rhode Island, the creditor was required to provide for the board of the imprisoned debtor. When this was not forthcoming the debtor was discharged.

Ancients Loved Oysters.

That the oyster was in common use by primeval man has been conclusively shown by the discovery in the "kitchen middens" of Denmark of many thousands of oyster shells, showing every evidence of having been artificially opened. In ancient Greece, also, the oyster appears to have been a recognized delicacy, for Dr. Henry Schliemann, the eminent German archaeologist—who, it will be remembered, became an American citizen during the great California gold rush—in his historic search for the ancient and somewhat mythical city of Troy, found many oyster shells in the ruins of the five prehistoric settlements of Hissarlik.

But it was Rome in the height of her power and opulence that, by singling out the oyster as the pièce de résistance of the Roman banqueting halls, conferred upon the oyster its just title as one of the most delicious and appetizing foods within the grasp of man.—National Magazine.

The Seagull and the Fisherman.

In the fishing village of Auchmithie, Scotland, you may frequently witness seagulls flying into the houses of the fishermen and partaking of food from their hands. One of these sea birds was in the habit of staying in a fisherman's house all the year round except at the breeding season, when it left. Once while the gull was away the fisherman removed his home some three and a half miles from the former place. The fisherman never expected to see his old friend, the gull, again. It was, therefore, much to his astonishment that he beheld one Sunday the sea bird come walking into his new residence with stately steps to resume his old familiarities and household ways.

A Big Drink.

John D. Rockefeller, testifying in the government's suit against the oil trust in New York, during the intermissions in his evidence talked to the reporters.

Adverting to an old friend, Mr. Rockefeller smiled and took a clipping, yellow with age, from his pocket.

"My old friend didn't believe in the Texas oil fields," said Mr. Rockefeller. "Listen to what a Galveston newspaper said about him at the time."

"The oil fields discovered in our state are excellent in quality and abundant in quantity. Great anxiety is felt for James H. Dash, who said he would drink all the oil found in Texas, for Mr. Dash is a man of honor."

The Answer.

Teacher—So you can't do a simple sum in arithmetic? Now, let me explain to you. Suppose eight of you together had 48 apples, 22 peaches and 16 melons, what would each of you get?

"A stomach ache," replied Johnny.

GREAT MEN OF LAST CENTURY.

Tolstoy Hanks with Napoleon and Abraham Lincoln.

Perhaps the most comprehensive and enlightening of the articles on the great Russian "Lion of N. Tolstoy" which have recently appeared is the article by W. D. Howells in the North American Review. Mr. Howells places the name of Tolstoy among the very greatest of the names of the nineteenth century. "There was," he says, "Napoleon and there was Lincoln, and then there was Tolstoy in an order which time may change, though it appears to me certain that time will not change the number of these supreme names." Mr. Howells continues:

"Since I have set them down here they have suggested to me a sort of representative unity in their relation to one another. If you fancy Napoleon the incarnation of selfish force which inspired and supported his own triumphant enemies in their reaction against progress; if you suppose Lincoln the type of humanity struggling toward the ideal in the regeneration of the world's polity, you may well conceive of Tolstoy as the soul's criticism of the evil and the good which, however wholly or partially they knew it, the others imperfectly did. The work of Lincoln was no more final than the work of Napoleon, and, like Lincoln's, Tolstoy's work has been without finality. So far as I can perceive, it has even been without effect in a civilization which calls itself Christian but which has apparently been no more moved by the human soul as it was in Tolstoy than by the Divine Spirit as it was in Christ. At first, indeed, the world was startled by the spectacle of a man of the highest rank, of a most ancient lineage, of great wealth, of renown in arms and in letters, putting from him fame and ease and honor, and proposing literally to obey the word of God, by making himself as one of the least of the brethren of Christ. It was a very curious sight, a bit droll, rather mad, wholly extraordinary. The world could hardly believe its eyes. It rubbed the sleep of 2,000 years out of them at the sound of this voice crying in the wilderness, this voice that had so charmed it in fable, and bidding it prepare the way of the Lord and make his paths straight. Some tears came into its eyes and some smiles; but after a while its lids fell again and all was as before. The event, one of the greatest in the history of mankind, has been without perceptible effect in civilization."

Laziest Bird on Earth.

Some of the most wonderful birds in the world are to be seen at the London Cage Bird association's annual show, says the Mail, of that city.

Perhaps the most remarkable exhibit of all is a bird described by Mr. Frank Finn, the well known ornithologist, as the laziest bird on earth. This is the Cuban trogon, a feathered idler of true Spanish-American instincts. He will sit patiently under a bough waiting for the ripe fruit to fall into his beak, instead of plucking it for himself. Not even the prospect of taking home a first and special prize to its owner disturbed the placidity of this picturesque winged slugard. Another remarkable exhibit is the rare hawk-headed parrot of South America. The toucans, which have been aptly described as "beaks with birds behind them," attracted a great deal of attention. The great Himalayan barbet was in his usual bad temper, biting furiously at everybody's fingers.

Three-Story Jump Easy for Cat.

A pan of grease that boiled over caused a fire, a panic among many tenants, and a record-breaking jump of a black cat that was scalded by the hot grease in 9 James street. Members of the eight families in the house crowded out on the fire escapes and several women would have jumped for safety had they not been restrained.

When the firemen were taking the tenants out of the house over the roof of 7 James street, Mrs. Carbo's black cat leaped from the window of the third floor, landed properly on its feet in the court and dashed off through an alley as if a jump of three stories was an everyday occurrence in its nine lives. After licking the hot grease from its paws the cat came back in the evening and joined the Carbo family.—New York Press.

Forgetful Bear Hunter.

Forgetfulness of that vitally important action when hunting bear—to reload your gun after you have fired—almost cost Ben Welch his life while hunting near here. Welch and Farnham Call were together and Welch wounded a large grizzly. The bear turned and fled and the hunters pursued until the bear stopped, turned about and charged Welch.

Welch waited until the bear was within ten feet of him, then took careful aim and pulled the trigger. No explosion followed—he had forgotten to reload his gun. In another instant the bear would have been on Welch had not a well-aimed shot from Call's gun struck the animal in the brain and ended its life. The bear fell so close to Welch that his paw struck his boots.—Alton Correspondence, Denver Republican.

Surprising Him.

"How conscientious you are!" "What makes you think so?" "You always call the clerk's attention to it when he gives you too much change."

"Oh, I do that to see him look shocked at his carelessness and my honesty."



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For Boys and Men in the very latest creations. Prices for quality absolutely right.

Men's Sterling guaranteed suits, \$10 up.

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The handsomest line it has ever been our good fortune to show. They start at 50c and go to \$4.48 for a handsome silk. We can fit you and please you.

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Should you prefer to make your waists we have the material. White and colors in all weight fabrics. Our line was never so complete in the dress goods department as now.

Brown's celebrated *5* Low Shoes for Men, Women, Misses, and Children.

Mrs. Ewing Halsell Entertains.

Mrs. Ewing Halsell most charmingly entertained at cards, yesterday afternoon, in honor of Miss Van Deventer and Miss Eva Halsell. The house decorations were red, prettily carried out in carnations of that color. Five Hundred was the game for the afternoon and high score was made by Mrs. R. I. Blakeney, who was presented with a beautiful silver fork. The guest favor, a water color painting was presented to Miss Chouteau. The party was enlivened by the presence of several charming visitors among them being Mrs. Wade of Marlow, Okla., Miss Logan of Hannibal, Mo., Miss Van Deventer, Miss Frink and Miss Chouteau of Kansas City. Others present were Mesdames J. F. Thompson, Clarence Rider, D. H. Wilson, C. O. Berry, R. J. Wright, W. Houk, Lee Barrett, Frank Billingslea, E. B. Frayser, O. L. Rider, Oliver Bagby, F. L. Kelley, P. W. Bonfoey, R. V. McSpadden, Marshall Stevens, S. later McClure, Emmett Skinner, E. L. Orr, W. R. Badgett, Blanch Crutchfield, Misses Graper, Cusey, Anna Stapler, Eva Hall, Bertha Thomason, Pauline Kelley Hayward and Mabel Bagby. At the close of the afternoon delicious refreshments were served.

Tornado Season is Here.

Time for tornadoes will soon be here. How about that insurance? We have the best. Fidelity Farm Loan company, Auditorium building. A fire may destroy your property at any time. In time of quiet, prepare for fire. We have the best and cheapest insurance. Fidelity Farm Loan company, Auditorium building. Our insurance department contains some of the best old line companies in the world. Let us write you a fire or tornado policy. Fidelity Farm Loan company, Auditorium building. Don't forget! Tomorrow may be too late for that insurance. Better look at your date of expiration if you are already insured, and let us write you a thoroughly good policy. Fidelity Farm Loan company, Auditorium building.

Dr. Ben Dobkins, a very capable and well known veterinarian of Welch has about decided to locate in Vinita. Dick Lawrence who went away with the rough riders came back to Vinita today to remain.

Richard L. Lawrence of Michigan City, Ind., is in the city the guest of V. A. Scott.

Mrs. C. F. Godbey of Claremore is in the city, the guest of Mrs. J. I. Morning.

V. A. Kennison went to Welch last night returning this morning.

FOR SALE—The old Congregational church, by the ladies aid.



BUSTER BROWN before the trouble started, Auditorium March 11

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VINITA, OKLA.

Published in the Vinita Chieftain, March 4th, 1909.
ORDINANCE NO. 552.
An Ordinance Granting Permission to H. E. Ridenhour to Enter Upon the Street and Alley and Connect With the Sewer in South Second Street. Be it Ordained by the Mayor and Councilmen of the City of Vinita, Oklahoma:
Section 1. That permission be, and the same is hereby given to H. E. Ridenhour to enter upon the street and alley in such manner as to connect his property with the sewer in South Second street in the City of Vinita.
Passed by the City Council of the City of Vinita, this 2nd day of March, 1909.
Approved by the Mayor this third day of March, 1909.
S. F. PARKS, Mayor.
Attest: G. P. FOGLE, City Clerk.